

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Specification

The title is objected to as not descriptive. In response, the title is amended as suggested to "Image Forming Apparatus and Method including Canceling a Power Save Mode".

Claim Status

Claims 1-35 were presented. Claims 1-8 and 16-35, which are withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a non-elected invention, are canceled without prejudice. Claims 9 and 15 are amended. Claims 9-15 are now pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Isobe (US 6,295,429) in view of Matsuura (US 4,745,436). In response, applicant traverses the rejections.

According to the present invention, a controller of an image forming apparatus maintains a power save mode when a cover member is closed during execution of the power save mode, and cancels the power save mode when the cover member is opened during the execution of the power save mode. As described in applicant's specification, for example, at page 41, line 21 to page 43, line 5, this configuration is in conformity with the likely intention of a user who opens/closes the cover. That is, when the user opens the cover, the user likely intends to conduct some operation using the apparatus, and thus the power save mode is canceled so that the desired operation can be performed quickly. On the other hand, an action is likely not intended by the user when a cover left open is merely closed, and thus the power save mode is maintained when the cover member is closed in order to reduce wasted operation and power consumption.

In order to emphasize this feature, i.e. that the power save mode is canceled when the cover is opened but maintained when the cover is closed, claims 9 and 15 are amended to recite that:

...when the cover member is opened during the execution of the power save mode, the controller cancels the power save mode to shift the apparatus to a state to permit an operation of the switching unit, and when the cover member is closed during the execution of the power save mode, the controller maintains the power save mode.

As acknowledged by the Action, Isobe provides no disclosure or teaching concerning the relationship between opening a cover and a power save mode. Isobe similarly provides no disclosure concerning the relationship between closing a cover and a power save mode. However, the Action asserts that Matsuura teaches that when a cover member is opened during execution of a power save mode, the controller cancels the power save mode to shift the apparatus into a state to permit operation of a switching unit. In this regard, Matsuura discloses a copying machine having a micro switch 4 that detects if a manuscript cover 3 is open or shut (col. 3, lines 20-22) and a micro switch 9 that detects if a manual paper feeding cover 8 is open or shut (col. 3, lines 33-35). According to Matsuura, upon any detecting signal outputted by switches 4 and 9, the power saving mode is canceled (col. 3, line 67 – col. 4, line 6; col. 4, lines 58-63; FIGS. 3(A)-3(B), steps n8-n10).

Thus, Matsuura does not discriminate between a signal indicating a cover is opened or a signal indicating a cover is closed. Rather, Matsuura cancels the power saving mode on the detection of any signal (i.e. cover opened or closed) from switches 4 and 9. Thus, the power save mode will be canceled both when the cover is opened and closed. There is no disclosure or suggestion of discriminating between a cover opening and a cover closing, as in the present invention, and canceling the power save mode when the cover is opened but maintaining the power save mode when the cover is closed.

Since Isobe and Matsuura do not disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 9 and 15, claims 9 and 15 and claims 10-14 dependent thereon are not obvious over Isobe in view of Matsuura. The rejections of claims 9-15 under 35 USC 103(a) should therefore be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after consideration and entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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